

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 2, and 5 are amended.

Claim 7 is added.

The Office Action

Claims 1, 3, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 58-209749, or Ramirez, et al. (J. Org. Chem., 1968), or Bacher, et al. (Macromolecules p.4552, 1999).

Claims 2, 5, and 6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were considered to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

For the reasons outlined below, it is submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for her acknowledgement of the allowability of claims 2, 5, and 6.

Claims 2, which was considered to include allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form, including all of the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 2, and dependent claims 5 and 6, are now in condition for allowance.

New claim 7 places original claim 5 in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 7 is also in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite an aromatic compound in which X represents a hydrogen-bonding site selected from among atomic groups containing an amide linkage, an urea linkage, a thiourea linkage or an urethane linkage. Support for the amendments to claim 1 are to be found in claim 2, as originally filed.

The cited references do not suggest such a compound. Regarding JP '749, the Examiner draws attention to the compounds shown on page 388. None of the compounds disclosed contains an amide linkage, a urea linkage, or a thiourea linkage. All the linkages are ester linkages.

Regarding Ramirez, the Examiner draws attention to the compounds on page 22, column 2. Once again, none of these compounds includes an amide linkage, a urea linkage, or a thiourea linkage. Rather, in Ramirez, phosphate esters are formulated.

With respect to Bacher, et al., the Examiner draws attention to compounds 4, 2a, 2b, 1 on page 4552. None of these structures includes an amide linkage, a urea linkage, or a thiourea linkage.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1, and claims 3 and 4 dependent therefrom, distinguish patentably and unobviously over the references of record.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all pending claims (Claims 1-7) are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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